

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5248

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5602

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF
POLITICAL AFFAIRS ON PENDING PROBLEMS

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
TOLD ME SEPTEMBER 12 HE WANTS TO START FRIENDLY PERSONAL
TALKS WITH ME WITH A VIEW TO SORTING OUT THE VARIOUS
PENDING PROBLEMS ABOUT COMPOUNDS AND THEIR CONTENTS WITH-
OUT FURTHER FRUITLESS EXCHANGE OF TOUGH WRITTEN COMMUNI-
CATIONS. I RESPONDED FAVORABLY AND SAID I WOULD BEGIN
STUDYING THE FILES IN PREPARATION FOR FIRST MEETING.
WE SHALL CLEAR OUR INITIAL POSITION WITH DEPARTMENT AND
BELIEVE THAT ALTHOUGH WE MUST STAND FIRM ON SOME
MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE, WE MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO
JETTISON A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DEBRIS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS,
CHANSAMONE VONGSAPHAY, SUMMONED ME TO A MEETING MORN-
ING OF SEPTEMBER 12. HE WAS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND
TOLD ME HE THOUGHT THE TIME HAD COME TO TURN OVER A
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NEW LEAF IN OUR MUTUAL HANDLING OF THE VARIOUS PRO-

PERTIES AND COMPOUNDS. HE SAID I HAD MANY FRIENDS IN LAOS AND HE HAD MANY FRIENDS IN THE EMBASSY AND HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD BOTH TALK THINGS OVER PERSONALLY AND TRY TO FIND SOME PRACTICAL WAY OF SOLVING THOSE PROBLEMS INSTEAD OF JUST SENDING EACH OTHER TOUGH NOTES. HE HAD IN HAND OUR TOUGH NOTE OF AUGUST 28 IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER TOUGH NOTE OF THEIRS. WHILE WE WERE TALKING, HE SENT OVER TO THE EMBASSY BY MESSENGER A SHORT, TOUGH NOTE IN REPLY TO OUR AUGUST 28 NOTE.

2. I TOLD CHANSAMONE THAT I WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN A CHANCE TO TALK THESE MATTERS OVER INFORMALLY AND TRY TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TOWARDS THEIR LIQUIDATION RATHER THAN GO ON FOREVER EXCHANGING NOTES. HOWEVER, THERE WERE ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS MIXED UP HERE AND I WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW THE FILES AND SORT THEM OUT. HE AGREED AND SAID WE COULD GET TOGETHER ANY TIME AFTER I HAD DONE THIS.

3. WHILE WE HAVE NO INDICATION PGNU IS PREAPRED TO GIVE A GREAT DEAL, WE ARE SURE CHANSAMONE IS NOT ACTING ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. WE CONSIDER THIS APPROACH A POSITIVE SIGN THAT THE PGNU WANTS TO START TO CLEAR AWAY THE TANGLED MESS THAT RESULTED FROM THE VARIOUS ACTIONS AGAINST OUR INSTALLATIONS HERE AND PAVE THE WAY FOR SOME APPROACH TO MORE NORMAL REALTIONS.

4. WHILE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STAND FIRM ON CERTAIN MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE IN THRASHING ALL THIS OUT, WE ARE ALSO GOING TO HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO THROW A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WRECKAGE OVERBOARD AND FORGET ABOUT IT.

5. WE SHALL REVIEW OUR RECORDS ON THESE MATTERSS AND DEVELOP AN OUTLINE FOR USE IN MY FIRST TALK WITH CHANSAMONE. BEFORE I SEE HIM WE SHALL INFORM DEPT OF INITIAL LINE WE PROPOSE TO TAKE.
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